

Message Text

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62

ACTION OES-04

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E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TECH, FR

SUBJECT: RUMORED FRANCO-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR REACTOR

REF: A. MOSCOW 14954 B. PARIS 17599

MFA NUCLEAR AFFAIRS DIRECTOR ALLINE REPLIED TO SCIATT INQUIRY THAT THE RUMORED SALE OF FRENCH REACTORS TO THE SOVIET UNION IS SIMPLY "NOT REALISTIC." FRANCE WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT ENOUGH DEVELOPING THE NECESSARY INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY TO MEET ITS OWN NEEDS AS WELL AS ITS EXPORTS COMMITMENTS TO IRAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES. ALLINE NOTED THAT THE GERMAN SALE OF A REACTOR TO THE SOVIETS IS TO A LARGE DEGREE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, BY THE BERLIN QUESTION. IMPLIED WAS THAT THE FRENCH HAVE NO SUCH POLITICAL GAIN IN VIEW.

COMMENT: ALLINE'S ASSESSMENT IS PERSUASIVE. IN ADDITION TO BUILDING 50 NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN FRANCE BY 1985, THE FRENCH HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO SELL FIVE NUCLEAR PLANTS TO IRAN AND THEY ARE REPORTED TO BE BIDDING TO SELL TWIN 900 MEGAWATT LIGHT WATER (WESTING-
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HOUSE) POWER REACTORS TO SOUTH AFRICA AND A HIGH TEMPER-

ATURE GAS REACTOR TO SWITZERLAND. LIBYA TOO IS A
PROSPECTIVE CUSTOMER. WHETHER FRENCH CAN BUILD THE
INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY AS REQUIRED IS CURRENTLY THE SOURCE
OF LIVELY DEBATE IN THE PRESS.
STONE

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